

# TWICE BORN

STORIES FROM THE SPECIAL DELIVERY UNIT

3 X 56 HD



**PBS**

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*Twice Born—Stories From the Special Delivery Unit* takes an intimate, inside look at rare surgeries done on babies still inside their mothers' wombs. With exclusive access to the elite Center for Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and its Special Delivery Unit, this gripping series features rarely seen, real-time footage of operations on fetuses. The featured parents all face a gut-wrenching decision: should they take a leap of faith to repair birth defects with risky pre-natal surgery, even if it means they might lose their child? *Twice Born* also gives insight into the lives of an unusual team of doctors who have defied skeptics and chosen to pursue this high-risk, high-reward career path.

**Part One:** Parents journey from all over the United States to the elite Center for Fetal Diagnosis and Treatment at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, hoping to find cures for their unborn babies' maladies. Part One introduces Lesly, a resourceful 23-year-old single mother whose unborn baby has developed a massive tumor. This episode includes never-before-seen, real-time operating room footage as Dr. Holly Hedrick performs a rare EXIT procedure and attempts to remove the tumor while the fetus is still attached to her mother. Meanwhile, Shelly and Bobby, a couple whose unborn child suffers from spina bifida, wait anxiously to find out if they are candidates for fetal surgery.

**Part Two:** *Twice Born* revisits the dramatic story of Lesly and her newborn baby, Lilly with unprecedented access to real-time operating room footage as the doctors remove the remainder of Lilly's tumor. Meanwhile, when their unborn twins are diagnosed with Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome, Tina and Brion make an urgent visit to The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, desperate to save their babies' lives. The heartbreaking realities of life in the Special Delivery Unit become clear when the doctors must deliver devastating news to the couple. Bobby waits anxiously for the results of the pivotal and highly risky surgery Shelly and the baby undergo to repair the fetus's spine. Because of the unique access of the series' camera crew, viewers get a close-up look at this surgery on a baby in the womb.

**Part Three:** A plastic surgeon initiates the process of reshaping Lesly's baby's face, which culminates in a carefully planned reconstructive operation. After the procedure, the doctors give Lesly some troubling news about Lilly's airway that will have major implications for her future. This episode includes an intimate view of the much-anticipated delivery of Bobby and Shelly's baby, Luella. By the end of the episode, Shelly and Bobby have returned to Boston and begin to learn the long-term impact of the fetal surgery on Luella, and what lies ahead for her. Part Three also chronicles the story of Geneva and Reggie, a couple from North Carolina whose world was shaken to the core when doctors revealed that their unborn child had developed a lower urinary tract obstruction.

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CREDITS

*Executive Producer:* Monica Lange

*Photo:* The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

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